WILDLIFEDIRECT

Newsletter
Issue #12
August 7th, 2020

WILDLIFE WARRIORS KIDS

Hello Wildlife Warriors!
Stay connected to nature even when you are at home in this twelfth edition of the weekly wild update.

In this week's Issue, we will focus on **Lions!** Have you ever heard a Lion roar? Do you know what it means when a lion roars? Please read on! We continue to give you tips on how to take the **BEST** photographs for Season Two of the Nature's Treasures Photo Competition starting this August, wild jokes and much much more…

Stay with us on this fun filled adventure. Always remember to share with your family and friends.

KIDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY!

Veer Sikand (11)

During Season One of the Nature's Treasures Photo Competition on the theme Our Wildlife Our Pride, Veer Sikand (11 yrs.) submitted a striking image of lions with their prey which captured an incredible moment.

The image quality impressed the judges who gave him a honorable mention in the Junior Category.

Season 2 of the Nature's Treasures Competition has Started!!! Submit 3 photos on the theme '*Wildlife Portraits*' by 14th August.

PHOTOGRAPHY TIP
BY USHA HARISH!

Horizon line to be straight

The human eye is always drawn to lines, therefore when taking your photograph you must keep in mind any lines that are in the composition.

USHA HARISH
PHOTOGRAPHY

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS

NATURE'S TREASURES PHOTO COMPETITION

SEASON 2

Theme: Wildlife Portraits - Aug 1st to Aug 14th

Enter up to 3 photos to bit.ly/WildlifeWarriorsEA

Prizes!

Professional Category
Winner KES 5000
Runner up KES 3000

Amateur Category
Winner KES 3500
Runner up KES 2000

Junior Category (Under 15 years)
Winner KES 2000
Runner up KES 1000

Now inviting photographers from East Africa!

WILDLIFE DIRECT | CONSERVATION through PUBLIC HEALTH | WILDLIFE CLUBS OF KENYA | TONY WILD Wildlife . Media . Impact | OGO-LAW The green brief | GORILLA CONSERVATION COFFEE | WILDLIFE WARRIORS

Nature photography for children offers a range of exciting and valuable learning opportunities.

If you are 15 years and below, you can submit photos under the Junior Category and encourage your age mates to take part in the Wildlife Warriors Nature's Treasures Photo Competition here
http://bit.ly/WildlifeWarriorsEA

Go Out. Explore. Take Photos. Share.

WORLD LION DAY

By Paula Kahumbu

World Lion Day is celebrated every year on 10th August. Lions are Big Cats scientifically called ***Panthera Leo*** and can live for 10-14 years in the wild.

They are listed as vulnerable with only about 20,000 left in Africa and about 2,000 individuals in Kenya.

Lions are now extinct in 26 African countries.

Join the World Lion Day celebrations near you by sharing your favorite lion picture, painting, poem or song by sending an SMS or WhatsApp message to 0746 511 787

UNDERSTANDING LIONS

By Moses Njenga

There are two main species of lions. The African Lion and the Asiatic Lion.

Although they are often referred to as Kings of the Jungle, lions live in the grassy plains and open woodlands. However some live in the bush.

Being the only Big Cats that are social, a family unit may be comprised of 2 to 40 lions and known as a **pride**. However there are also solitary lions in Northern Kenya.

A lioness usually gives birth to between one and four babies called cubs. The gestation period of a lioness is 105 days.

UNDERSTANDING LIONS

By Suhaib Alvi

The Lion is considered one of the strongest animals in its habitat.

Lions are **Carnivores**, which means they are animals that only eat meat and hunt for food every few days.

After eating, lions can sleep for up to 20 hours a day.

In some cases, where there are other carnivores like a clan of hyenas within the same territory, lions have been known to eat quickly and move away from the kill.

The fur around a male lion's neck is known as **mane**

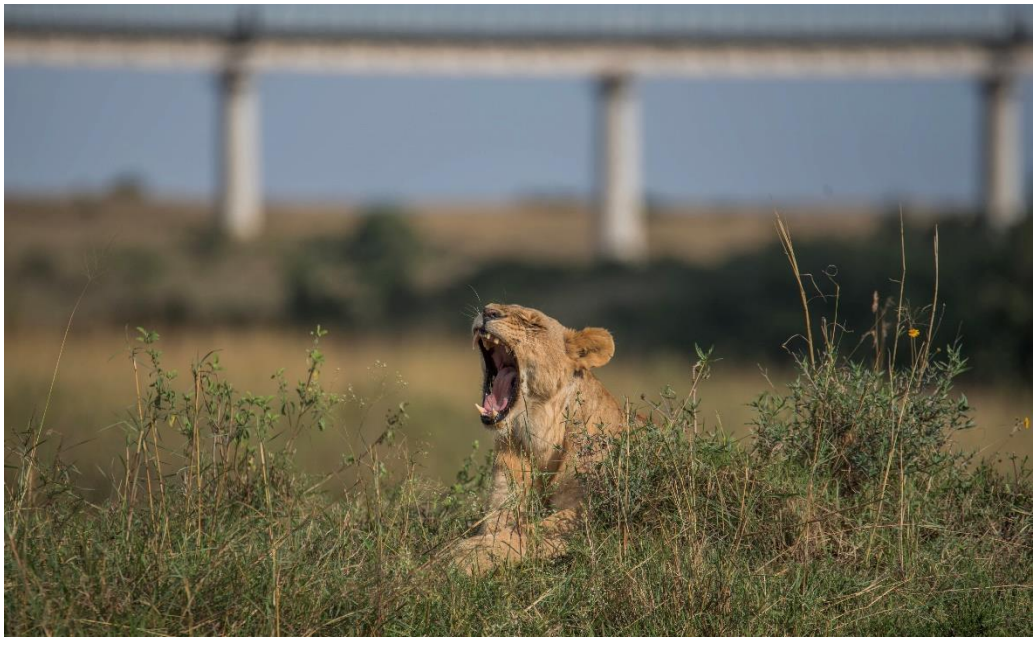
Did you know...

There are male **maneless** lions? This can be caused by climate or genetic characteristic, passed down from generation to generation.
Lions found in Samburu are primarily maneless, other maneless lions in Kenya can be found in Tsavo.

LIONS AND PEOPLE

The future of lions lies with coexisting with people.

- Many people are increasingly becoming protective of the big cats that live among them.
- If lions can live in the community land and the community can live with the lions, that is a win-win situation and this is what is happening in Samburu.
- Many Samburu people are protective of the big cats that live among them—they named one, Naramat "the caring one" because of her excellent mothering.



By Suhaib Alvi

Fun fact

A roar is a warning sound made by a male lion. When a lion roars, he does it to communicate with members of the same pride and to advertise territory. His roar can be heard up to eight kilometers away.

MEET NARAMAT

Did you know, just like humans, lions have names and character traits unique to each of them?

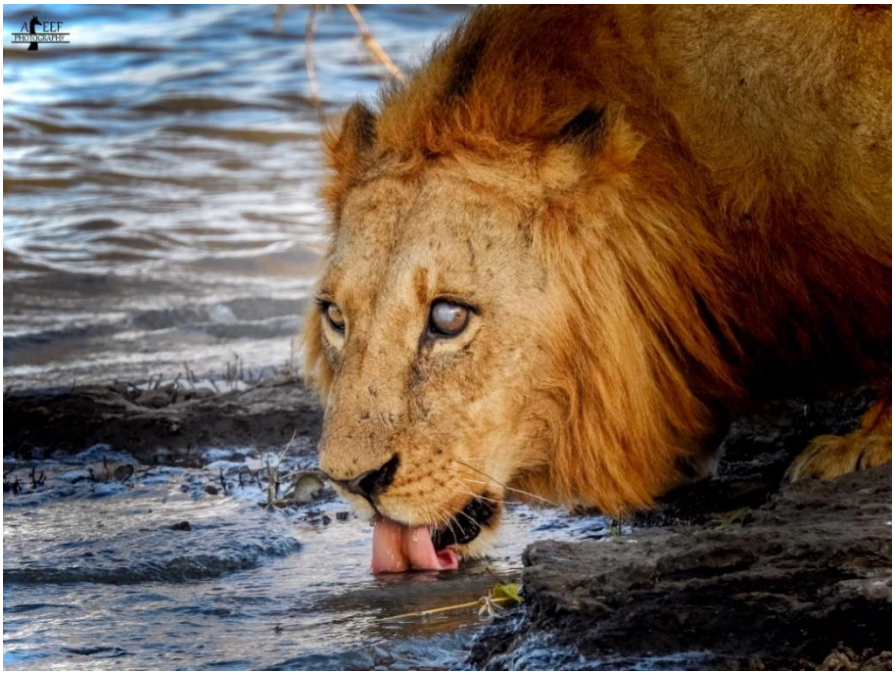
Naramat is one of the remarkable female lions in Samburu.

She continues to show her resilience in this challenging environment and is currently raising her fourth litter of 3 cubs all by her herself.

"We love watching her cubs play, climb trees and be curious about everything."

Article courtesy of Ewaso Lions

THREATS FACING LIONS



By Areef Admani

Most lions are at risk of dying as cubs, for a variety of reasons, including injuries, lack of food, illness and being killed by adult lions.

- Lions are often killed by spearing, shooting or poisoning when they go after people's livestock in East Africa.
- **Habitat loss** due to conversion of land use for human development reduces space for lions to roam which has led to a number of sub populations becoming smaller and isolated.
- **Disease** has also been a threat to lion sub populations
- Emerging threat - **trade in bones and other body** parts for traditional medicine, both within Africa and in Asia.

Article courtesy of Ewaso Lions

MEET JENERIA

Jeneria and his team of warriors do a great job taking care of lions and making sure their community in Samburu understands the importance of conserving them.

The following is an excerpt from the Samburu Lions Episode, of the Wildlife Warriors TV Series. Watch it here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usWdz9nS7FM. *Let's meet Jeneria! As he explains the role of lions and how communities can live together with them peacefully.*

Q: What traditional belief do the Samburu have about Lions?

A: We believe that if a lion roars in the morning, then that is a good sign of hope and that there would be no long droughts.

Q: When did the Warriors Watch program start and why was it started?

A: I started the Warriors Watch Program in 2010 after seeing that any time I go out and come across a cow or goat killed by a lion, the warriors are always the first people to rush there.

I therefore saw the need to involve them in lion conservation.

Q: How do the warriors watch help in protecting lions?

A: After knowing the benefits of conserving lions, the warriors use their tracking skills to know where lions are so as to inform community members to avoid their location which reduces conflict.

Q: How do you track the lions ?

A: Using radio tracking technology and also looking for lion footprints. We also get information from community members if they seen a lion.

Q: What is the future for lions?

A: The future for lions lies in living together with humans peacefully. Everyone in the community has a role to play in keeping lions safe.

Q: What would make you so happy as a lion expert?

A: Inspiring a Kenyan student who would want to learn about wildlife

"I live and work for lions. My day-to-day activities include; following lions movements through community land to avoid human-carnivore conflict and understand their behavior patterns".

Jeneria Lekilelei

WILD JOKES! 🤣

Q: Do you know why you shouldn't eat Lion meat?
A: Because its roaaaaaaaarw!

Q: Why did the Lion cross the road?
A: To approach the Zebra crossing

Q: What happened to the over confident Lion tamer?
A: He was consumed by his pride

Q: Why did the Lion win the big race?
A: He was a Cheetah

Q: What's the best side of a Lion to be on?
A: The outside

Q: Why is the Lion the most popular animal at the park?
A: It's the mane attraction

Q: What does a Lion call his barber who's also his best friend?
A: His mane man

Wild jokes courtesy of Eric Sasia

THE END OF AN ERA
A TRIBUTE TO SAM AND CHERU

Sam's photo by Gareth Jones

Cheru's photo by Gareth Jones

Did you hear about the lions that went for a stroll in Nairobi?

For many years two magnificent lions lived in the Nairobi National Park, because they were dominant males and were seen so often by many people, they were given the names of Sam & Cheru (sons of the dominant male Ujonjo who died few years ago).
It is estimated that Cheru was born in 2004 and that Sam was born in 2005.

Sam, Cheru and Simbeo their friend, were given the name the *'Ivory Trio'* because they used to frequent the zone around the Ivory Burn Site.

The "Ivory Trio" used to also enjoy serenading the captive lions . The result was that the lions at the animal orphanage also replied, thus giving a wonderful lion choir with a chorus of synchronized roaring like a natural surround sound stereo in the wild.

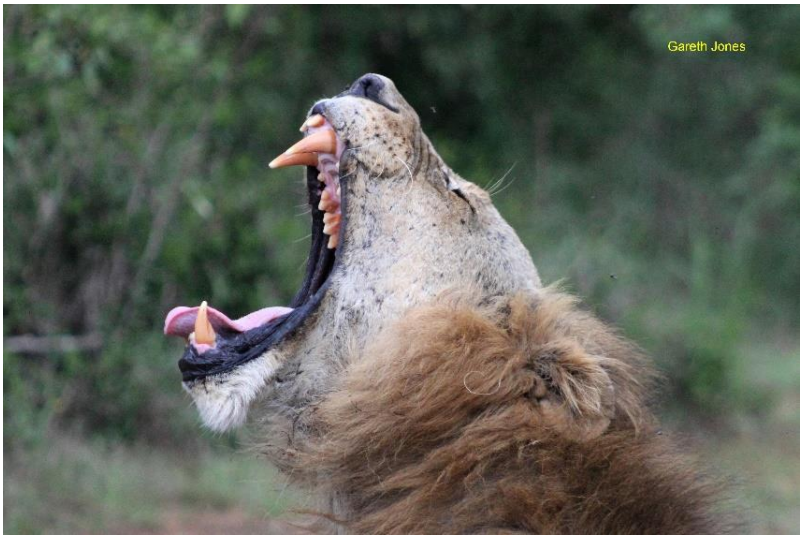
In December 2019 it was noted that Cheru looked as if he had been in big fight as his eye was ripped open.

In January 2020 , he simply disappeared without trace and hopefully died peacefully.

After Cheru died, Sam being old and alone was not able to hold on to his position of being a dominant lion, especially as there are strong young lions like Embakasi and Sirikoi who are now mature and are fighting for the royal "title" of Nairobi National Park lion king.

Most recently old Sam was involved in a nocturnal fight and was found severely wounded near the No.7 Karen-Primary dam, even the prompt actions of the KWS veterinary team could not save him as the severe nature of his wounds resulted in septic shock and death within a short period of time .

Cheru and Lady Leonie



Sam yawning in the forest

We hope and pray that Kenya Wildlife Service will ensure the future of the Nairobi National Park lions by improved conservation management methods, while being assisted by various concerned conservation groups who are a voice for the creatures who cannot speak .

Article and photos courtesy of Gareth Jones

Rest in peace – Sam and Cheru

NATURE INVESTIGATIONS PART 2

Last week we observed living things and wrote down what we noticed about them.

This week we will continue exploring around our home compounds for more insects, birds or flowers.

Observe the flowers that attract most insects and birds.

Think like a detective and come up with a hypothesis to find out **WHY** things are the way they are.

When you are investigating nature you are engaging your whole brain and all your senses - **sight, touch, smell, taste (only if it's safe to do so)**

You can start with **"I wonder … "**
for example "I wonder which insects pollinate this flower?" or "I wonder what does this animal eat?".

Really stretch your imagination, look closely at your object for clues and write them down.

If it's an animal, does it have a big mouth or a small one – wonder if it is a predator that eats other animals, or does it have a long tongue to suck nectar?

Draw what you see and write notes about it in your special book.

Nature Investigations by Dr. Paula Kahumbu

Take a photo of the **work** you have done in **your journal and send it** to us via **WhatsApp on 0746 511 787** so that we can **share your amazing work with all the other kids.**

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP NATURE!

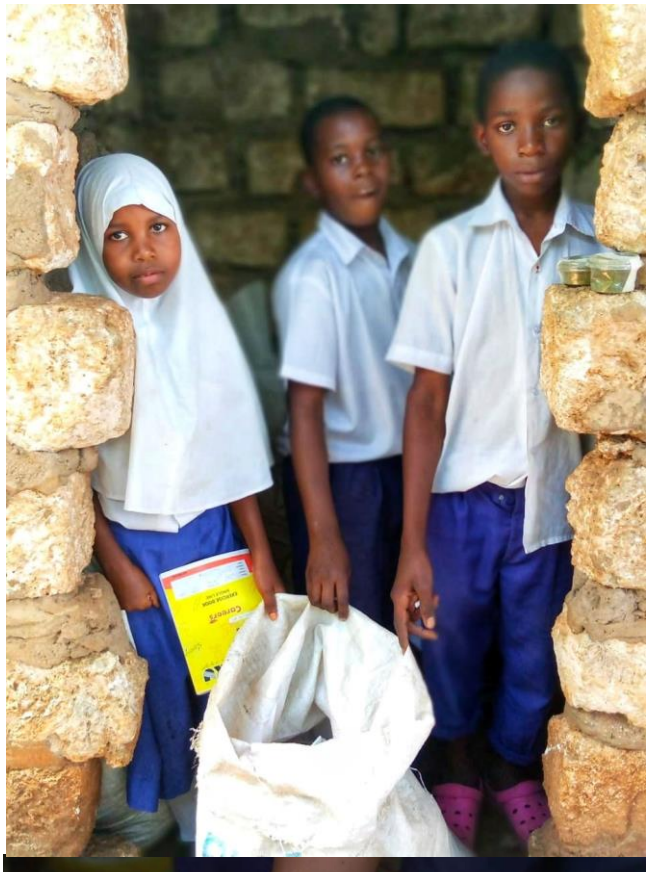
Did you know that you can help reduce the cutting of trees for charcoal by having an alternative source of cooking fuel? An example is **paper briquettes**

What are paper briquettes? These are small blocks of shredded paper and organic waste that can be used as fuel for cooking instead of wood or charcoal.

This week we will learn how we can make briquettes from waste that litter our schools and homes to reduce cutting of trees for charcoal.

Wildlife Warriors from Mbweka Primary School in Kwale County prepared their own paper briquettes! Let us see how they did it.

Simple Steps on how to make paper briquettes



Step 1. Collect waste paper and shred or cut them into tiny pieces then keep in a bag.

Step 2. Soak the shredded paper in a bucket of water and cover for a few days then mix with saw-dust.

Step 3. Squeeze and pound the soaked mixed Paper + sawdust in a mortar and pestle.

Step 4. Mold the paper + sawdust by putting the briquette in a polythene paper with holes then compress it in a tin to shape it.

Step 5. Remove the briquette from the tin and put them in a room or under a shade to dry 3-7 days.

The briquettes are then ready for use!

Share with us what you have done to help nature this week by sending an SMS or WhatsApp text to 0746 511 787

THIS WEEK ON MY WILD AFRICA!

Would you want to be a Wildlife Veterinarian when you grow up?

This week on Cheetah Diaries we follow an eye procedure for one of the cheetah cubs and meet a Veterinary Nurse who takes care of the cheetah cubs.

Tune in to Citizen TV this Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Watch the **film** with your family and tell us **what you learnt** by sending an **SMS** or **WhatsApp message** to **0746 511787**

COMING UP… DON'T MISS!

Greater Kudu By Paula Kahumbu

- My Wild Africa on Citizen TV at 5:30pm on August 9th, 2020
- World Lion Day is on August 10th, 2020
- World Elephant Day is on August 12th, 2020
- World Hirola Day is on August 12th, 2020

FOR PARENTS!

- Please tell us what you think of this newsletter by filling the second part of bit.ly/WWKIDS and we will get back to you.

- If you would love to support Wildlife Warriors Kids, please make a donation to:

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